



State Senator
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2005-2006: New Opportunities

The new legislative session looks to be promising. As the Chair of the Economic Development, Small Business, and Regulatory Reform Committee, I will be looking at legislation designed to make Michigan more competitive in attracting and growing businesses in Michigan. In addition, we have already begun the process of preparing budgets for the coming fiscal year. It promises to be a challenging year, but one filled with opportunity for improving Michigan. My legislative agenda will be filled with both new and old items. There were a few items that I introduced last year that were never acted upon which I think would benefit Michigan families and I have reintroduced them. Here is a quick look at some of these bills.

Senate Bill 129 - Sex-Offender Residency Restrictions: I don't think it is a good idea for individuals convicted of sex offenses against juveniles to live near a school. This bill would allow a judge to forbid a sex offender from living within one mile of a school.

Senate Bill 132 – Video Voyeurism Civil Penalty: Last year the Legislature passed my bill making it a crime to invade an individual's privacy by secretly photographing them in places like bathrooms and locker rooms or using devices to peer under their clothing in public. With technology advancing this is a growing problem. This bill would make it easier for victims of this sort of high-tech invasion of privacy to sue for damages in civil court.

Over the last five months I have been presented with some good legislative ideas from my constituents. I consider myself fortunate to represent such well informed and involved communities. My agenda includes bills that will improve Michigan's environment, protect Michigan families from criminals, and enhance benefits for our National Guard Soldiers. Here is a brief summary of two of the legislative ideas I am reviewing.

National Guard Life Insurance – Our nation's military is spread across the globe. The members of the Michigan National Guard are being called to active duty in record numbers. I will be introducing legislation that requires the state cover the cost for \$250,000 of life insurance for every person called to extended active duty. Our soldiers shouldn't have to worry that their premiums are up to date when they are in a gun battle with opposing forces.

Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River – In past legislative sessions, I was able to get more money to monitor these waters. This session, I am looking at legislation to create incentives for people and businesses to take better care of these waters. Numerous agencies have published reports on ways for the Michigan Legislature to take care of these waters and I hope to introduce legislation supporting these efforts.

I would invite you to visit the Michigan Legislature's website at www.michiganlegislature.org for more information on these bills or contact my office directly.



Senator Alan Sanborn and his family are lifelong residents of Macomb county.



MICHIGAN SENATE

DISTRICT UPDATE

FROM SENATOR ALAN SANBORN

ASSISTANT PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Representing the 11th District consisting of the Townships of Armada, Bruce, Chesterfield, Harrison, Lenox, Macomb, Ray, Richmond, Shelby, and Washington; and Armada, Memphis, Mount Clemens, New Baltimore, New Haven, Richmond, and Romeo.

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Dear Friends:

As your voice in Lansing, I am pleased to have the opportunity to tell you about some of the work my Senate colleagues and I accomplished in 2004 as well as some of my legislative goals for 2005. Please be assured I will continue to work hard for you and the families of the 11th district. I welcome your comments, questions and concerns, and stand ready to help if you need assistance with any state matter.

Sincerely,

Alan Sanborn

Senator Alan Sanborn

REPORT CARD 92nd Legislative Session

Senate Votes Taken:	Sanborn Votes Cast:
1,695	1,695
Record: 100%	

LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP 2004

Senator Sanborn introduced a number of bills that were signed into law in the previous legislative session. Here are some highlights of bills signed into law in 2004:

- **Public Act 43**
Part of a broad package dealing with out-of-state trash, this legislation requires the state police and Department of Environmental Quality to inspect landfills.
- **Public Act 455**
Joined effort to make Michigan a national leader in dealing with the growing problem of identity theft. His legislation prohibits denying credit to ID-theft victims.
- **Public Act 500**
Created programs at public universities to better support pregnant students, to encourage and promote giving birth rather than having an abortion.
- **Public Act 150**
Increased penalties for forging a Michigan identification card, making that crime consistent with forging a Michigan drivers license.

- **Public Act 155**
Prohibits recording of voyeuristic images.
- **Public Acts 450 and 451**
Allows movie-theater operators to detain people caught pirating movies without having to face legal liabilities if the detention is done reasonably.
- **Public Act 542**
Allows grandparents to seek visitation time, under certain circumstances, with their grandchildren in the event the parents are separated. The law makes the child's welfare paramount in such situations.
- **Public Act 225**
Sets eligibility for probation and dismissal of drug-related charges in certain circumstances. This law is part of a package of legislation that created more drug-courts to better deal with drug offenders than the expensive option of incarceration.
- **Public Act 304**
Makes it a crime to knowingly file a false financial statement about a debtor with the Michigan secretary of state's office.

GRANDPARENT VISITATION

A new state law, Public Act 542 of 2004, initiated and fought for by Senator Sanborn, allows grandparents to seek visitation with their grandchild in certain situations.

Senator Sanborn began working on this issue after the Michigan Supreme Court, following a ruling by the United States Supreme Court, struck down as unconstitutional the state law governing grandparents' visitation rights. PA 542 is an attempt to address the constitutional problems that the Court found with the previous law.

"I know that the supporters of this law had a long wait, but our efforts have finally paid off," Senator Sanborn said. "We've corrected a problem that was preventing some grandparents from even seeking the opportunity to visit with their grandchildren," he added. This law gives grandparents the chance to petition the court for visitation under certain circumstances while always making sure that the visits are in the best interest of the child.

This new law is limited to situations when the parent of the child denies visitation to the child by the other parent's mother or father. However, it does not apply in the case when both parents deny visitation to the grandparent.

CABLE SHOW INFORMATION

Tune in to Senator Sanborn's Cable Show, on Macomb Today! Macomb Today airs at various times on local cable stations, channel 6 in most areas. Keep an eye on your local listings for show times or visit www.senate.michigan.gov/sanborn

CREDIT REPORT NOW FREE

Beginning March 1, you can receive your credit reports from the major credit-reporting agencies for free. A new law provides the opportunity once a year to review the information cost-free that is used when you apply for a credit card, mortgage or loan.

A report lists outstanding lines of credit opened in your name and provides a good way to help guard against identity theft. Experts advise that you obtain a copy of your credit report once each year to check that only the accounts you've started are listed. In 2004 alone, almost 250,000 people reported cases of identity theft, about half of all complaints received by the Federal Trade Commission.

The Legislature recently made Michigan a national leader in dealing with this growing problem, but taking the initiative in protecting yourself is always the best defense. Senator Sanborn joined in the effort, successfully pushing for a new law that prohibits denying credit to identity-theft victims.

INTERNSHIP NEWS

Senator Sanborn is accepting applications for legislative interns for the May to August term and the September to December term. Interns serve a vital role in the operations of a legislative office. Students are given the opportunity to perform research and writing tasks to assist in the Senator's constituent services activities. They are also able to view committee hearings and floor discussions and participate in the development of legislation. If you know of a college student with an interest in public policy, please ask them to consider applying for one of the internship opportunities available in my office. For more information or an application, please contact Peter Langley in my office.

Besides being alerted to identity theft, reviewing your credit report helps keep you up-to-date on whether you qualify for loans and helps you make sure the information is accurate. If there are errors, you can request the credit-reporting companies to fix mistaken or out-of-date information.

To order a report, go online to www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll-free 1-877-322-8228. To order, you must provide your name, Social Security number and date of birth.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Please take the time to answer the following questions...

- 1

As a means of bolstering Michigan's economy, the Governor is promoting a budget plan to reduce certain business taxes while shifting the burden to specific types of businesses. This plan will result in additional taxes being levied against insurance companies and financial service providers.

A.

Do you support this idea in concept?

☐ Yes ☐ No

B.

Would you support the idea if it meant increased premiums and fees for insurance coverage or financial services?

☐ Yes ☐ No

C.

Do you have any thoughts on Michigan's current tax structure in general?

2

Some in the Legislature have promoted an idea to raise Michigan's Minimum Wage from \$5.15 to \$7.15 over the next two years.

A.

Do you support the increase of the minimum wage to \$7.15?

☐ Yes ☐ No

B.

If passed, \$7.15 would make Michigan's minimum wage nearly \$2.00 higher than surrounding states. Knowing this, would you support Michigan's increase?

☐ Yes ☐ No

C.

Groups opposed to the idea suggest that increasing the minimum wage will only increase Michigan's unemployment rate and damage Michigan's ability to encourage business growth. Do you agree with this outlook?

☐ Yes ☐ No

D.

Do you have any suggestions to spur economic development in Michigan?

3

Would you support legislation that requires youth sport coaches to disclose to the sponsoring organization that they have been convicted of a sex crime or an alcohol or drug related driving offense?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my survey. Look for the results in the next newsletter.
Please return your responses to my office at: Senator Sanborn, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909.

YOU MAY ALSO REQUEST THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS:

☐ Citizen's Guide

☐ Services for Seniors

☐ Michigan Map

☐ Travel Michigan

☐ Child Safety

Clip & Mail

SURVEY RESULTS

Below you will find a compilation of respondents' opinions on questions that were posed in the last newsletter regarding revenue "enhancements." **Thank you to those readers who took the time to complete the survey!**

- 87% would like the state to cut spending rather than balance the budget through tax and fee increases, 13% do not.
 - 53% did not support an increase in the cigarette tax; while 47% did. Senator Sanborn voted against this tax increase last year.
 - 95% are opposed to raising Michigan's Estate Tax, 5% are not.
 - 93% of those responding were opposed to the measure that forced the early payment of property taxes, 7% were not. Senator Sanborn voted against this proposal.
 - 54% oppose an increased mark-up and tax on liquor, while 46% do not.
 - 89% support the placement of youth offenders in specific private facilities if it can reduce recidivism rates and provide cost savings, while not sacrificing safety, 11% do not.

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